



COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT NETWORK

Student: Giulia Nicosia

Country: Malawi

Hosting organization: CISP



Insieme, per un mondo possibile.



“Rice Value Chain Development in karonga, Malawi: Two approaches at comparison

The thesis presents the results of a field study conducted during my internship in Malawi with the International Organizational CISP – Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli.

It explores the original approach proposed by CISP value chain development, in the framework of the Rice Value Chain Development Project.

The approach consist in the combination of Village Savings and Loans Associations, training on modern farming methodologies, and linking farmers with cooperatives, offers an opportunity for smallholder farmers to generate more income in the rice value chain. VSLA methodology, that is the key element of the strategy, is synchronized with the farming cycles, in order to provide a source of cash in available at the moment of buying new inputs.

A comparative analysis has been carried on, between RVCD Project and another project, the EU Farming Income Diversification Program, implemented in the same region with a similar purpose, but through a very different strategy, more top-down and based on the delivery of assets.

Primary data have been collected in the field through a survey submitted to rice farmers and face to face interview with representatives of the local institutions.

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c/o Collegio Santa Caterina da Siena Via S. Martino 17/b, 27100 Pavia - Italy
Tel. +39 0382 22540 - Fax +39 0382 307861 - Email: cdn@unipv.it - Web: www.cdnpavia.net



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The data analysis has demonstrated that the two projects, both valid, have had different impacts. CISP RVCD project in particular has proved to be a more sustainable, owned, cost and time effective approach.

both projects have proved to be valid, but it has emerged that RVCD Project have generate a wider impact on the target population, in a more cost and time effective way. Above all, it more sustainable and more ownership.

Interesting considerations have been drown over the possibility of combining the two approaches for future actions.

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